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REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to ensure proper antecedent basis, but is not amended substantively. Claims 5-12 have been added by the present amendment. The claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

With reference to claims 1 and 5, Applicant's claimed invention is directed to a transmitting/receiving system for receiving and transmitting data, including: a plurality of transmitting/receiving apparatuses, at least one of the apparatuses having a storage means (image information memory) for storing image information and a control section (control display section) for setting and registering in advance a destination transmitting/receiving apparatus to which data is to be transferred. Claims 1 and 5 further require a control means (transmitting/receiving control section) for transferring the data stored in the storage means (image information memory) to the destination apparatus when a power source is shut down.

For example, FIG. 2 depicts a transmitting/receiving apparatus 10 connected to a local area network (LAN) 100 and a plurality of other transmitting/receiving apparatuses 300. The transmitting/receiving apparatus 10 can be a multi-function apparatus with a laser printer, a scanner, and a communication control section having a modem for connecting via a telephone line 201 to external transmitting/receiving apparatuses 200 (see spec. at page 11, last paragraph).

As shown in FIG. 1, the transmitting/receiving apparatus 10 includes a control means (transmission/receiving control section) 16 for controlling the apparatus, which has the function of backing up data in the transmitting/receiving apparatus 10 when its power source is shut down (see specification at page 16, last paragraph). When the main power circuit 41 is shut down due to a power failure, e.g., power is supplied from a backup power source 42 (see page 19, first paragraph). As the electric energy falls below a threshold value for storing information in the image information memory 12, the transmission/receiving control section 16 transfers the stored information to one of the other transmission/receiving apparatuses 300, i.e., a destination apparatus, which has been set and registered in the control display section 14 in advance.

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Therefore, according to the Applicant's claimed invention, it is possible to prevent necessary data from being lost even when a power source is shut down due to a power failure or the like. In such a case, the data is stored in another transmitting/receiving apparatus (i.e., the destination apparatus) linked via the network.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,137,586 to Kato. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kato fails to teach or suggest a transmitting/receiving system, wherein at least one of the transmitting/receiving apparatuses includes a control section for setting and registering in advance a destination transmitting/receiving apparatus to which stored data is to be transferred. Kato also does not teach or suggest the claimed control means (transmitting/receiving control section) which transfers the stored data to the destination transmitting/receiving apparatus when a power source is shut down.

Kato is directed to a transmission device (e.g., facsimile device) in which unnecessary backup data is erased from memory, in order to prevent the backup memory from being filled up with backup data (see column 1, lines 59-65).

FIG. 1, as cited in the Office Action, is a block diagram showing components of the facsimile device (see column 4, lines 23-24). As described in Kato, backup data is stored in a storage region of the RAM 3 (column 4, lines 47-52). Kato describes a procedure by which data received in the facsimile device is backed up in the same facsimile device, and if the user indicates that printing was properly performed, the backup data is erased from the RAM 3 (see, e.g., column 7, lines 31-40).

Kato does not teach or suggest a transmitting/receiving system in which a transmitting/receiving apparatus includes a control section for setting and registering in advance a destination transmitting/receiving apparatus to which stored data is to be transferred or a control means for transferring the stored data to the destination transmitting/receiving apparatus in the

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event of a power failure. In Kato, received data is backed up in the RAM 3 of the same facsimile apparatus. Therefore, Kato does not teach or suggest transferring data to **another** or destination transmitting/receiving apparatus.

As explained in the Applicant's specification, in the event of a power failure, the transmission/receiving control section 16 transfers the stored data to another transmitting/receiving apparatus (i.e., the destination apparatus) which has been set and registered in the control display section 14 in advance (see page 21, last full paragraph). As a result, it is possible to back up the stored data by transferring the data to another apparatus.

For at least the above described reasons, Kato does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicant's claimed invention. It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

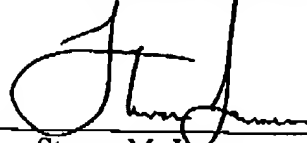
Applicant believes that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

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